

are doing in a variety of areas is, in some cases, very inaccurate and misleading. I've asked the Health Care Financing Administration to give us more information on this problem and the extent of the errors.

There are private groups which accredit HMOs and use HEDIS data to help measure those plans. The leader in these private groups is the National Commission on Quality Assurance. But it is all very confusing to the consumer. The following shows why.

How NCQA Accreditation Compares to U.S. News and World Report Rankings of HMO's

U.S. News ranking	Full Acc.	1-Yr. Acc.	Prov. Acc. <sup>1</sup>	Denied	Review <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>4</sup>	P/S/E <sup>3</sup>	Totals
****	41	15	0	2	0	6	0	64
***	46	30	7	1	1	5	6	96
**	47	30	0	1	1	16	8	103
*	13	7	1	0	1	5	10	37
Not ranked	14	0	0	0	1	7	5	27
Totals	161	82	8	4	4	39	29	327

<sup>1</sup> Provisional accreditation: plan meets some standards; can move up if review after one year shows improvement.

<sup>2</sup> Initial status determined but under review.

<sup>3</sup> Initial status Pending/review Scheduled/rating Expired.

<sup>4</sup> Accreditation information not available.

Source: U.S. News and World Report, October 13, 1997.

One of the most important things would be to ensure that these private accrediting and rating groups, which are paid for their services by those they rate, are true to the public interest. I have proposed legislation, H.R. 800, which would require that the boards of accrediting organizations like NCQA and JCAHO include public interest representatives and public meetings.

So much money is at stake in the quality ratings of managed care plans, that I do not believe the ratings should be directed in private and by boards of directors who include representatives of the interest being evaluated.

#### HONORING JACKIE SMITH

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Jackie Smith. Her contribution to women's sports is incomparable.

Jackie began playing organized basketball at the age of 11. The effort that she put into the game since then has made her a competitive player of international renown. She attended Forest Hills High School and, as a premier player, received All-City honors and the 1st Regusus award given by New York City. Upon graduation, she received a full athletic scholarship to St. John's University where she led the team to two Big East championships, four NCAA appearances, and has received numerous individual awards.

In 1986, after receiving her Bachelors degree, she played professionally with the Racing Club de France in Paris, France. In 1988, she returned to New York City to play an instrumental role with the Brooklyn Sports Foundation as its Community Relations Director. While in this position, she worked closely with the Foundation's Chairman, Board of Directors, and community leaders to plan and develop the first and only sports complex for amateur sports in Brooklyn.

In keeping with her love of sports, this year she became the Head Women's Basketball Coach at York College and is committed to building a successful program.

The October 13, 1997 issue of US News and World Report rated 223 HMOs using data largely from the National Commission on Quality Assurance's HEDIS system. The rating also showed whether NCQA had given full or partial accreditation to those HMOs.

Using the HEDIS data on things that people care about, like immunization rates, mammography rates, etc., US News ranked plans as Above Average or Below Average—but the NCQA accreditations had relatively little to do

with how plans did on the US News ratings. For example, NCQA denied accreditation to 2 plans that US News found among the best, but denied none among the plans that US News found the worst. Following is a table my staff did showing the results.

What can be done to make this babble of ratings more useful to the public?

Mr. Speaker, join me in congratulating Ms. Jackie Smith for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and showing young women everywhere that they can do, and accomplish, anything.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAWSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

#### HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous bravery shown by Dawson High School students earlier this year. These students, whose high school is in my district, have displayed an incredible example of courage in the face of danger and given all of us a fascinating story of courage and bravery.

Mr. Speaker, on January 6th of this year, students from Dawson High School arose and planned their day as usual. As they waited in their neighborhoods for the school bus, they had no way of knowing about the dangers that awaited them. Because there has been heavy rains in Dawson the previous week, many of the roads were flooded. The school bus that the Dawson students were on, got caught in one of those flooded roads and was swept off into a ditch towards the flooded creek.

Mr. Speaker, this would have been a tragic situation, if it had not been for the quick thinking of the older students on the bus. They took the initiative to check for anyone who was hurt, and then they moved all 40 students to the right side of the bus in order to keep it from flipping over.

The students who put their fear aside and acted so bravely were: Shelley Wheat, Jessica Hall, Misty Rounsavall, Jeremy Rounsavall, Jasm McCury, Keith Becker, James Stults, Sarah Urrutia, Kevin Ivie, Dorinda Golden, April Dooley, Jennifer Wren, Mandy Houk, Niki Dooley, Krysty Copeland and Sharlaine Hooley.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to overestimate the fear I think anyone would feel faced with a situation such as this. I know I join the people of Dawson in thanking these young heroes and heroines for their courage and their inspiration.

#### THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF SENATE APPROVAL OF THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO IN 1848

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today—March 10th—marks one of the great historic occasions in the history of the United States, and it is a particularly significant anniversary for the people of the great State of California. Today is the 150th anniversary of the vote in the United States Senate in which that body approved the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by a vote of 38 to 14. That historic document marked the conclusion of the two-year war with Mexico.

The treaty is also a tribute to American diplomacy and the creativity of Nicholas P. Trist, the chief clerk of the Department of State who was sent to Mexico by President James K. Polk at the end of 1847 with instructions "to take advantage of circumstances as they might arise to negotiate a peace." After a lengthy delay, Trist was about to begin negotiations with Mexican representatives when the President sent instructions for Trist to return to Washington. Trist—convinced that he was on the verge of achieving all of the objectives that he was sent to achieve—ignored his instructions to return, continued his negotiations with Mexican officials, and concluded the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, named after the place where it was completed.

When Trist returned to Washington with the treaty, President Polk could find no fault with the document and, despite "the exceptional conduct of Mr. Trist," submitted the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to the Senate for its advice and consent. It was this document which was approved by the Senate on March 10, 1848, which I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating today, Mr. Speaker.

The anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mr. Speaker, is an occasion for both celebration and for thoughtful reflection about the nature of our great nation.

First, Mr. Speaker, it is an occasion for celebration because the treaty led to major changes that helped to define the United